

CORPORATE CONSCIENCE.

It is one of the slang phrases of the law, that a "corporation is a body without a soul." It is a body politic and corporate of legislative creation, in which the soul, or moral element of human nature, is not included. And yet corporations are, almost uniformly, specifically charged with functions demanding the exercise and observance of the highest moral duties and obligations. When, then, is the moral sense, requisite for the discharge of these duties and obligations, to be derived? The presumption is, that these requisite moral elements are to be supplied by the individuals who combine to make up, or constitute, this legislative creation.

This presumption is most just and reasonable. And yet it is a presumption that almost uniformly fails of being realized. If there were no moral sense predicated of a corporation, then the legislative power of a government, when creating a body politic, would be employed in creating a wild beast to exist and act in the midst of society under legislative sanction. The moral sense is the distinctive and defining attribute between the human and the brute creations. Only man has it. The brute has it not. The man who, by misfortune, has it not, is himself but a brute. The corporation that the law creates to act by and with men in civil society is presumed to act under the same moral obligations, and with the same regard to the conscientious observance of right, that bind mankind together in the social state. If this be not lawfully predicated of a corporation, then such corporation deserves no place among the human species, and must take rank with the brute.

Now, the history of this country is becoming to be little more than the history of gigantic corporations created by some special enactments of law. And the history of these corporations is almost one unbroken series of frauds, corruption, violence and wrong. Under the promptings of avarice and ambition, and with the same regard to the conscientious observance of right, that bind mankind together in the social state, these corporations have treated with the people as the lord would treat with his vassals.

And yet these corporations, so utterly soulless, so entirely destitute of conscience, are frequently placed under the directory of men whom the people delight to honor—men against whom no breath of censure as to their private affairs has ever been whispered, men whose individual standing in society is such that none flinches but to praise. And the great problem is, why such men do not carry with them into the service of such corporations the law of conscience that regulates so worthily their personal affairs? Why is it, that, when acting in their corporate capacity, these same men regard the public as their proper prey? Upon what principle, in the moral economy of man, can be explained those innumerable and astounding frauds that of late years have been perpetrated by great corporations, sweeping away the fortunes of innocent and confiding victims into the gulf of utter ruin without a whimper of compunction or even the semblance of shame; and yet under the directory of men to whom the world attributes the possession of the finest moral sense? Is it indeed impossible that the private conscience of men can be carried into a corporate body whose movements and interests they direct?

If it indeed be impossible that there can be any conscience, any moral sense, infused into these corporate bodies, then are they in truth unfit for human association, and unworthy of a civil existence. If it be an absolute condition of their nature, that they are to be without a soul, and therefore without the sense of right and responsibility, without a conscience and therefore without the sense of remorse, moved only by the animal instincts of greed, at once avaricious and cruel, then indeed have we among us a breed of wild beasts, beasts of prey, which it were wiser for the law to destroy than to protect.

Would it not be in order for the Trustees of our Southern railroad to rise up and report to the city what they have done, how much they have done, where they have done it, what it has cost, how much they have received, how much they have expended, and a good many other little items about their transactions, all of which are unknown to the people who are paying for all this. The Trustees are quiet and amiable gentlemen, not prone to make any unnecessary noise about themselves; yet an occasional utterance explanatory of their use of the millions in hand would not mar the music of the spheres. We move that they speak right out. They will have a large and attentive audience waiting upon their words. Rise up, gentlemen.

The Singer will case has developed some very novel and remarkable circumstances. On last Friday the case was adjourned, by consent of parties. It is understood that the legatees under the will have offered a compromise to Mary Ann Foster, the contestant, agreeing to pay her \$200,000 for release of all claims. This she has refused, and declares her determination to "stick" for the \$4,000,000. Meanwhile other legatees of the old singer Singer are coming forward who were not named in the will, and demanding shares of the Singer

loan. He provided for over twenty children, but seems to have forgotten some.

THE N. M. HARRIS and the Cincinnati Times are figuring out the next President according to Dabot. It is very beautiful to see those arithmetical presidents on paper. The Herald gets a good showing for the Democrats, and the Times gets two to one Republican. The result is very satisfactory—to the men who are such excellent figure-heads as to figure it all out.

THE Prince of Wales has reached Bombay, and is once more on British soil, though under an Asiatic sun. "Wales" will now have to eat rice and curry to lubricate his tongue so as to pronounce such names as this—Sir Benjamin Ramjeebamejeejeejeejeejeejeejeejee.

There is just that man, and so named, at Bombay.

THE explorations of Livingstone and Stanley in Central Africa have been the means of rousing the British people to undertaking the enterprise of reaching the central portions of that continent by proceeding from the northwest coast. The expedition is soon to sail from England, and the expectation is to open direct communication with the interior.

BETWEEN the Clergy and the Club a solemn feud arises. But, without any further shuffling it appears that Clubs are trumps, and the Clergy must follow suit. Also, between the Reverend Moore and the Irreverend Conway there seems to be a fair chance to give the "devil" his due.

HUNT STREET still remains blockaded. Street railroads own the highway, and the victimized public must wait all winter for the "confederates" to get through with their quarrel about injunctions and things. Beautiful city government!

ALEXANDER STEVENS is announced as getting well. Aleck has all his lifetime been announced as getting better; it is quite time that he should be getting well.

THEY have a visit from that monstrous horrendum, the sea-serpent, in the San Francisco bay; so they say.

JOAQUIN MILLER says he hasn't "a book in the world, not even a dictionary." Nobody doubts it.

John Randolph in Church.

Mr. Randolph was a great Bible reader, and was deeply concerned with religious subjects. He employed an excellent and eloquent man, Mr. Abner Clifton, to preach every Sunday to his negroes in a large chapel he had erected on his plantation. When at home he invariably attended these services, taking the seat of honor on the open platform from which the preacher conducted the services.

On many occasions while kneeling beside the preacher, who was prone to be carried away by the fervor of prayer, Randolph would slip him on the back and say to him, "Clifton, that won't do; that's no sound doctrine; Clifton, take that back," and if Clifton remonstrated Randolph, though keeping himself on his knees, was ready at once for an argument to maintain his point. No one but Mr. Clifton, who knew the eccentricity and honest motives of the man, could have borne with these irreverent interruptions while in the midst of prayer; but Mr. Clifton, when he found Randolph determined to argue the point, either gracefully yielded or proposed to note the point and argue it at the dwelling of the man. Mr. Randolph, feeling that they were many—these scenes were exceedingly curious, and sometimes absurdly ludicrous. But that was Mr. Randolph's way. It is said that on one cold Sunday in this chapel on Mr. Randolph's plantation, while giving out the hymn in the old-fashioned way, two lines of a hymn, "I will sing thee songs of new ones," he sang lustily sung by the negroes. Mr. Clifton, the preacher, observed a negro man put his foot upon which was a new brogan, on the hot stove. Turning toward him, he said, in his measured voice, "You rascal, you! you'll burn your shoes." As this was a rhyme of the exact tone of the hymn, the negroes all sang it in their loudest tones. Smiling at the error, the preacher attempted mildly to explain by saying: "My colored friends, indeed you are wrong; I didn't intend that for the song; there it was in again another rhyme in going to measure the words that, too, in pious fervor. Turning to his congregation, the preacher said, somewhat sharply, "I hope you will not sing again until I have had time to explain;" but this only aroused the negroes, who sang the last words with increased vigor. Mr. Clifton, feeling that his tongue seemed to be turned to rhyme, abandoned all efforts at explanation and went on with his services.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams sent this entirely sound and sensible reply to a Boston man who urged him to become an independent candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, in order to make himself a prominent candidate for the Presidency next year: "If I were to enter upon any course, direct or indirect, to operate upon my fellow-citizens in the matter of an election to the Presidency, the issue to me would be nothing but a question of expediency. I really want me they know where to find me. If they do not, nothing that I could do would avail to change them. You say that things are managed in such a way as to suppress the true sense of the people. I say that can never be when the people really have an opinion. It is only when the people are indifferent or much divided that management comes in to turn the scale. I confess to you that I am no hand to play this game; and if I were to attempt it, my friends would only be sorry for my mistake."

Last week (Thursday) a lady of this county put a quilt into the frame, and on the evening of the day following the quilt was taken out unfinished. Besides doing this she attended to the dairy, churning twice, scrubbed a porch 40 feet long, washed a little, and assisted in catching one dozen chickens. From Lexington (Ky.) Rambler.

Another monster telescope, the largest yet attempted, is in course of construction at Dublin for the Austro-Hungarian government. The object-glass will have an aperture of twenty-seven inches, and the total length is to be about thirty-two feet.

A Detroit marriage notice ends with the singular expression, probably added by a wags' friend: "My future troubles be little ones."

A postal card passed through the mails the other day, written on one side only, but containing 15,000 words.

THE CABMAN'S STORY.

[Translated from the French of Alexandre Dumas.]

"When I got in, it was a picture to see them, in each other's arms, the father kissing his daughter all over with his lips, the mother and the nurse, the nurse in tears, M. Eugene in tears, myself in tears. In fact, a regular shower all round."

"Then said my master to the nurse, and me, 'We must leave them alone.' We left the room all three; and my master took me by the arm and said, 'Watch for M. Alfred de Ligny, when he comes in from the ball; I wish to speak to him with you.' I took my place upon the stairs-case, and kept sentry."

"In about a quarter of an hour I heard the bell-tingling, tinging. It was M. Alfred; he came up stairs singing. I said to him quite politely, 'Excuse me, Monsieur, but my master wishes to speak to you with you.'"

"Could not your master wait until to-morrow?" he replied with a sneer. "It seems not, since he wants to see you directly."

"Well, where is he?"

"Here I am," said M. Eugene, who had been waiting for me. "Will you please to walk into this room, Monsieur de Ligny, pointing to the room where M. Alfred de Ligny was. I could not understand this."

"However I opened the door. The Captain was just getting into the inner room; he made a sign to me to wait outside, and he said to me, 'M. Alfred, if I should then, 'Walk in, gentlemen!' My master pushed M. Alfred into the room, drew me out, and shut the door upon us both. Next I heard a trembling voice say, 'Alfred! and another voice reply in astonishment, 'M. Alfred is the betrayer!' said I to my master."

"Yes," said he, "he still will and let us listen."

"At first we could only hear M. Alfred's voice; she seemed to be entreating M. Alfred. That lasted some time, and then we heard him say, 'No, M. Alfred, it is impossible. You must be mad to ask it. I am not my own master in this. I can not marry as I choose. I am dependent upon a family that will not permit it. But I am rich and I money—'

"Then you should have sent her the money," said my master, without stopping to unlock the door of the cabinet, where he was hid, the Captain drove it open with a kick, M. Alfred de Ligny gave a scream, the Captain thundered out an oath fit to lift the roof off the house, and said my master, 'Let us go in.'"

"It was high time."

"Captain Dumont had M. Alfred down, with his knee on him, and was twisting his neck as though he was a chicken. My master separated them."

"M. Alfred got up, pale as death, his eyes ready to start from his head and his hands shaking. With a look at M. Alfred de Ligny, who lay in a faint, he walked up to my master, who was waiting for him with his arms folded. 'Eugene,' said he, 'I did not think your room was a slaughter-house. I shall not come into it again without a pair of pistols. I shall not come into it again without you. You come, replied my master, for otherwise I shall be under the necessity of begging you to walk out instantly.'"

"Captain," said M. Alfred, turning round, 'you will not forget, I have an account to settle with you too.'"

"And you shall settle it this moment," said the captain, 'I do not leave you until you do.'"

"He it is?"

"The day is just breaking," continued M. Dumont. 'We will find weapons.'"

"I have swords and pistols," said my master, 'I have them put in a carriage,' said the captain."

"An hour hence at the wood of Boulogne, Porte Maillot," said M. Alfred. "Very well," replied my master and the captain, both at once. "Go find your seconds." M. Alfred went away."

"My master," said M. Alfred, "my daughter's bad. M. Eugene wished to call for help; but the old man said, 'No, better she should be ignorant of everything. M. Alfred de Ligny, farewell. If I fall, M. Eugene, you will avenge me, will you not? and the orphan girl, you will not abandon her.'"

"I swear it to you, by herself," replied my master, throwing himself into the poor father's arms."

"Cantillon, call a hack."

"Yes, sir; shall I go with you?"

"You may."

"The captain embraced his daughter once more, and then calling the nurse he said, 'I shall be back in half an hour, where I am gone, say I will soon return. Now, my young friend, let us go.' They went back into M. Eugene's room. When I brought the hack they were down stairs waiting for me. The captain put the pistols in his pocket, and my master the swords under his coat."

"Wood of Boulogne, driver."

"My friend," said the captain, 'I am killed, give this ring to my poor Marie; it was her mother's wedding-ring; a good woman she was, young man, now with God, but there is a ring in this world and one that I am buried with my cross of the Legion and my sword. You are now my only friend; except my daughter I have neither kin nor kin; so, then, you and my Marie following my coffin, there will be no enemy mourners.'"

"What these thoughts were? They are sad ones for an old soldier," said he."

"Since 1815, everything has gone wrong with me; and as you have promised to be the guardian of my daughter, you are to be a young and rich man a poor old father."

"He said no more; my master could not speak another word, and there was silence until we reached the place of meeting."

"A cabriolet followed us a few steps behind. It stopped, and M. Alfred got out, and in a few seconds."

"One of them approached us."

"What are the captain's weapons?"

"Pistols," he replied.

"Stay in the carriage and take care of the swords," said my master to me; and all five plunged into the wood."

"In ten minutes, or less, I heard two pistol shots. They made me leap as though I had not expected them. Ten minutes more passed without another shot, and I knew it was all over with one of them."

"I sunk down into the bottom of the hack; I did not dare to look out. All at once the door opened."

"The swords, Cantillon!" said my master.

"I gave them to him; and as he stretched out his hand for them I saw the captain's ring was on his finger."

"And—M. Alfred de Ligny's father?"

"He is dead."

"Then, the swords—"

"Are for me."

"For Heaven's sake, let me go with you, Monsieur."

"Come if you wish."

"I hesitated out of the coach. My heart, Monsieur, was no bigger than a nut, and I trembled in every limb. My master entered the wood, and I followed him."

"We had not got ten steps, when I saw M. Alfred standing laughing between his seconds. 'Take care!' said my master to me, pushing me aside. I made

one spring backward, I had nearly trodden on the captain's body."

"Monsieur Eugene threw three glances upon the body, then he said to my master, 'The party is in front, dropped the points of the swords on the ground, and said, 'See that they are both the same length, gentlemen.'"

"You will not consent, then, to postpone this matter until to-morrow?" asked one of the seconds."

"Impossible!"

"Well, friends, no matter," said M. Alfred. 'The first affair has not tried me in the least; only I should be glad to drink a glass of water.'"

"Cantillon, go get a glass of water for M. Alfred," said my master."

"I would as lief he had told me to go hang myself; but he waved his hand a second time to me to go, and I started off to the restaurant at the entrance of the wood, scarcely a hundred feet from where we stood. Before you could turn round I was back. I handed M. Alfred a glass of water, and said to him, 'I wish it was poison to you!' He took it; his hand was perfectly steady, only when he gave it back to me I noticed that he had broken the edge of it between his teeth."

"I threw the glass over my head, and went back to my place. I saw that my master had been making ready in his shirt and pantaloons, and his sleeves were rolled up nearly to his shoulder. I went up to him, and said, 'No orders for me, Monsieur?' None," he replied, 'I have no orders for myself; if I should then, 'Walk in, gentlemen!' My master pushed M. Alfred into the room, drew me out, and shut the door upon us both. Next I heard a trembling voice say, 'Alfred! and another voice reply in astonishment, 'M. Alfred is the betrayer!' said I to my master."

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"Let the within-named be paid up to date, disregarding formalities. A. Lincolns." (Applause.)

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